

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Border Guard (PS): Missions, Operating Procedures, Typical Installations, Organization and Equipment	DATE DISTR.	2 June 1953	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The function of the Czechoslovak Border Guard (Pohranicni Straz - PS) in peacetime was to patrol the border and to prevent illegal border crossings. Each PS Company (the smallest PS unit on border guard) had a stretch of the border, 3 km. long and 8-10 km. deep, to patrol. Nine brigades (each composed of four or five battalions with five companies to a battalion) patrolled about 540 km. of the border from Bratislava to Karlovy Vary. No Czech army units were closer than 10 km. to the Czech-German border. I knew the border area at Frantiskov /4853N-1457E/ and Susice /4914N-1331E/ well, and I knew of no pillboxes or fortifications in those areas.
2. For each three kilometer stretch there was a headquarters of a PS company Annex A7. Almost every company had two buildings, one for the headquarters mess hall and lecture rooms, the other for quarters for enlisted men. The two buildings were surrounded by intercommunicating trenches, and had two kennels for dogs. They were located one to five kilometers inside the border, depending on the terrain. I saw a Soviet colonel, whose name I do not know, who, together with Czech [REDACTED] and four Czech officers (I do not know their names) visited the Czech border [REDACTED] and selected sites for the

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[redacted] and selected sites for the locations of barracks for PS companies. The group had stakes driven in at approximately three kilometer intervals. Later all buildings required by a PS company were erected at each site. Trees were felled, new highways were built by the PS, strips were plowed, alarm wires were set up, etc. [redacted] PS men were still digging trenches, installing trip wires, and felling trees to insure good visibility. 25X1

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3. Near the border there was usually a plowed strip about five to seven meters wide; this served to show the footprints of any border crossers. Trip wires, connected to flares or to electric warning systems, were located along the entire border. These trip wires helped the PS in locating the spot where an attempt had been made to cross the border. [redacted] the PS had been putting up barbed wire entanglements, digging ditches, and laying minefields all along the border. I heard that such construction started in Cheb /5005N-1022E/ and had progressed to Pobezovice /4931N-1248E/. It was contemplated to have the area of the 7th PS Brigade mined and protected by barbed wire and ditches [redacted] I believe that the measures were designed to seal off the border rather than to prevent enemy invasion. 25X1
4. A border strip 500 m. to 3 km. wide, depending on the terrain, was cleared of all civilians. No one, except the PS and StB men, was permitted to enter the area. In addition, a strip of border 3-10 km. wide (depending on the terrain) was not ordered evacuated by civilians, but all inhabitants of that area had to have special passes indicating that they were bona fide residents.
5. One man was at the PS switchboard at all times; another guarded the headquarters building, and two men were in an observation tower located on an elevated point overlooking the three kilometer area. These wooden towers were usually 400 m. inside the border, were 50-70 m. high and connected by telephone to the company headquarters. These towers were camouflaged, i.e., they were located among trees and were masked with tree branches. Out of the 40 enlisted men in a PS company on border guard duty, there were always three teams of two or three men patrolling the three kilometer stretch on varying routes on six to eight hour shifts. At night each team had three or four men. The commanding officer worked out a route so that each of the three teams covered the area thoroughly and in such a manner that their routes did not overlap in place or time.
6. PS men, on border guard, had a regular schedule. Each day they had two hours of political lectures, 15 minutes of physical training, 15 minutes of weapon aiming exercises, as well as work details, such as felling trees, digging trenches, installing trip wires, etc., in addition to their guard duty. Some men received special training in order to handle the guard dogs. The telephone, the headquarters guard, and the patrol teams were all operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The night patrols had specially trained vicious dogs with them.

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7. [redacted] the following daily routine:

0600 Reveille

0605-0700 Personal toilet

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0700-0730 Breakfast

0730-0745 Physical training

0745-1200 Office duties

1200-1230 Dinner

1230-1600 Office duties

After 1600 hours PS officers could dress in civilian clothes and were under no restrictions as to movement or freedom.

8. Enlisted men in the PS had to be in the barracks at all times when not on duty or on pass. Enlisted men received passes on a percentage basis; these were given out on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1800 to 2300 hours. I do not know the percentage of men allowed on pass, but passes were hard to get and presupposed good conduct. Occasionally enlisted men were permitted to attend movies in neighboring towns, but they had to go in formation with an officer escort.

9. Officers in the PS as in the army were entitled to one month's leave annually. PS officers could not take all their year's leave at once, but in two 15 day terms. Career noncommissioned officers in the PS received three weeks' leave annually, usually in three terms of one week each. No officer, enlisted man, or civilian in the PS was permitted to leave Czechoslovakia when on leave.

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- 25X1 10. [ ] the 7th PS Brigade held maneuvers in the woods near Susice /4914N-1331E/. These maneuvers lasted one week. Only headquarters' staffs and service units participated in the maneuvers and no PS border guards or Section 1/2 [ ] men were detached from their jobs to participate. I believed this was a command post exercise or a problem of some sort but have no detailed knowledge since I did not take part.

11. Once a month the 7th PS Brigade in Susice had an alert; it consisted of two stages. For the first stage all officers had to be at their desks and the enlisted men in their billets while they awaited further orders. During the second stage the officers remained at their desks but had to have their weapons and equipment with them and the enlisted men were in formation in front of their billets with full field equipment and weapons, and both groups awaited further orders. There was no alert assembly area. Once, after the second stage, [ ] all officers and enlisted men of the 1st Bn., 7th PS Brigade, were rushed to Volary /4855N-1353E/ to apprehend illegal border crossers. On all other occasions the alert never went beyond the second stage.

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12. The weapons and vehicles of PS units were always in good condition. The PS had its own supply system, independent of the army. The 7th PS Brigade received supplies directly from PS headquarters in Prague and distributed the supplies by truck to its organic battalions, which in turn supplied their organic units. I do not know to what units the trucks bringing supplies were subordinated. I believe that a PS company received food once weekly, but I am not sure. I have no knowledge on the amount of food, ammunition on hand, or any other supply data. Nor have I any information on the army supply system or on the locations of army supply depots. I believe that the SNB and the StB had their own channels of supply.

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13. The wartime mission of the PS was to serve as shock troops to defend the border from an invading enemy until the army could arrive in full strength. Thereafter the PS was to serve as an intelligence-reconnaissance unit. I do not believe that the PS could defend the borders of Czechoslovakia because there were only about 40 men to every three kilometers. These men were armed with only pistols and submachine guns and were without planes, tanks, mortars, or artillery. An estimated one to four hours would elapse before alerted army units could arrive at the threatened point, but no dry runs occurred to determine just how quickly the army could arrive to combat an invader.
14. PS companies had to report by phone to the PS brigade headquarters the number, type, altitude, direction of flight and the time of any aircraft sighted. The PS brigade headquarters relayed the information to the PS headquarters in Prague.

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Annexes:

- A. Installations on Border of Czechoslovakia-Germany
- B. T/O of PS
- C. T/E of PS

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Annex A

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P.S. Installations on the border of Czechoslovakia - NE Zone of GermanyLegend

1. One-story barrack building, 30 x 15 m, with tar-paper roof. Quarters for 40 HM.
2. One-story wooden building, 30 x 15 m, with tar-paper roof, Hq, living quarters of CO, messhall, guardhouse and lecture room.
3. Wooden observation tower, 70 m high. Usually camouflaged. Two guards with binoculars were on constant watch observing the border area and Germany. A telephone connection existed between the tower and the Hq.
4. Kennels for dogs.
5. Trenches surrounding buildings 1 & 2, described above. Trenches were about 2 m deep and were to be used for the protection of the Hq & billets in case of an attack.
6. Plowed, raked strip, about 7 m wide. Usually located about 500 m inside the border.
7. Permanent post for the sentry guarding the Hq.
8. Church.
9. Roadblock.
10. Reference points used to designate routes of patrols.
11. Forest.
12. Roads.

. . . . . tripwires

 } patrol routes

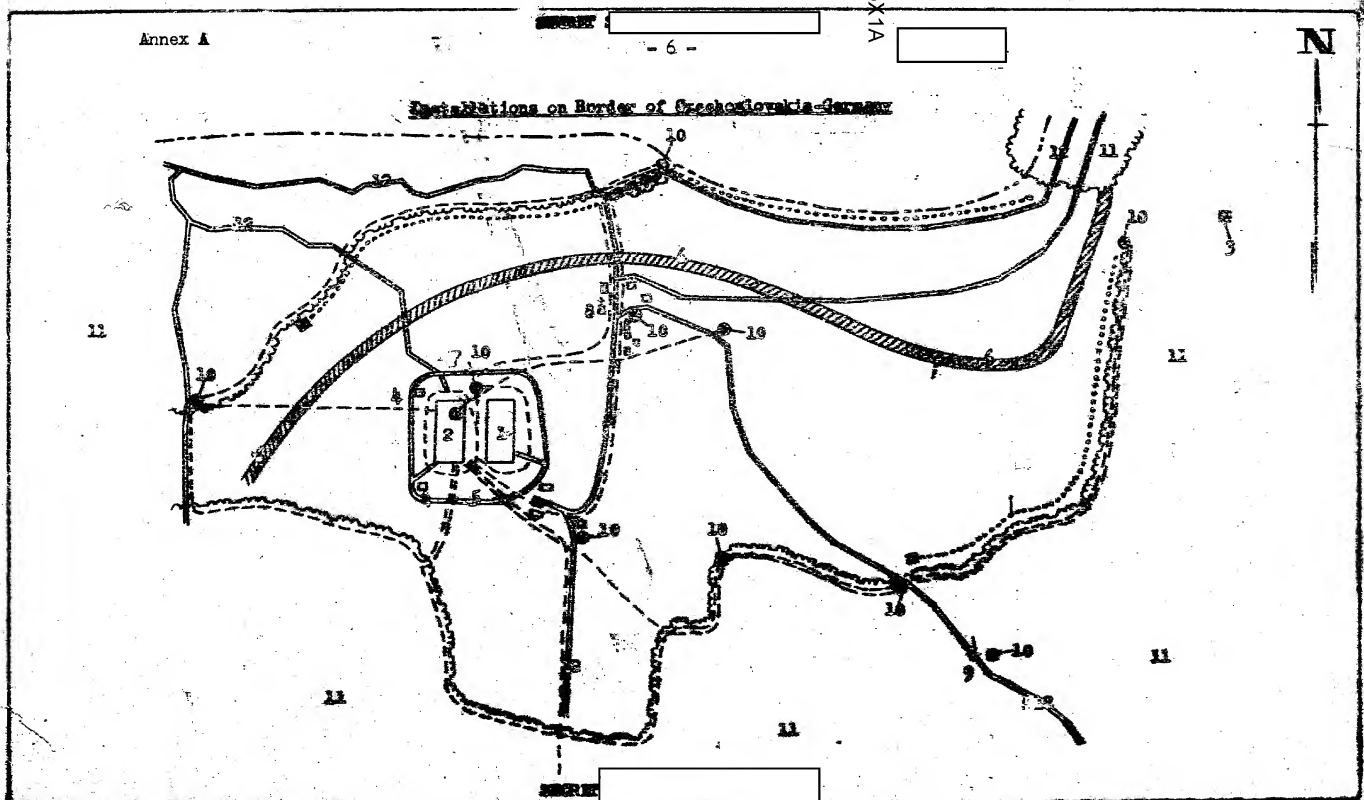
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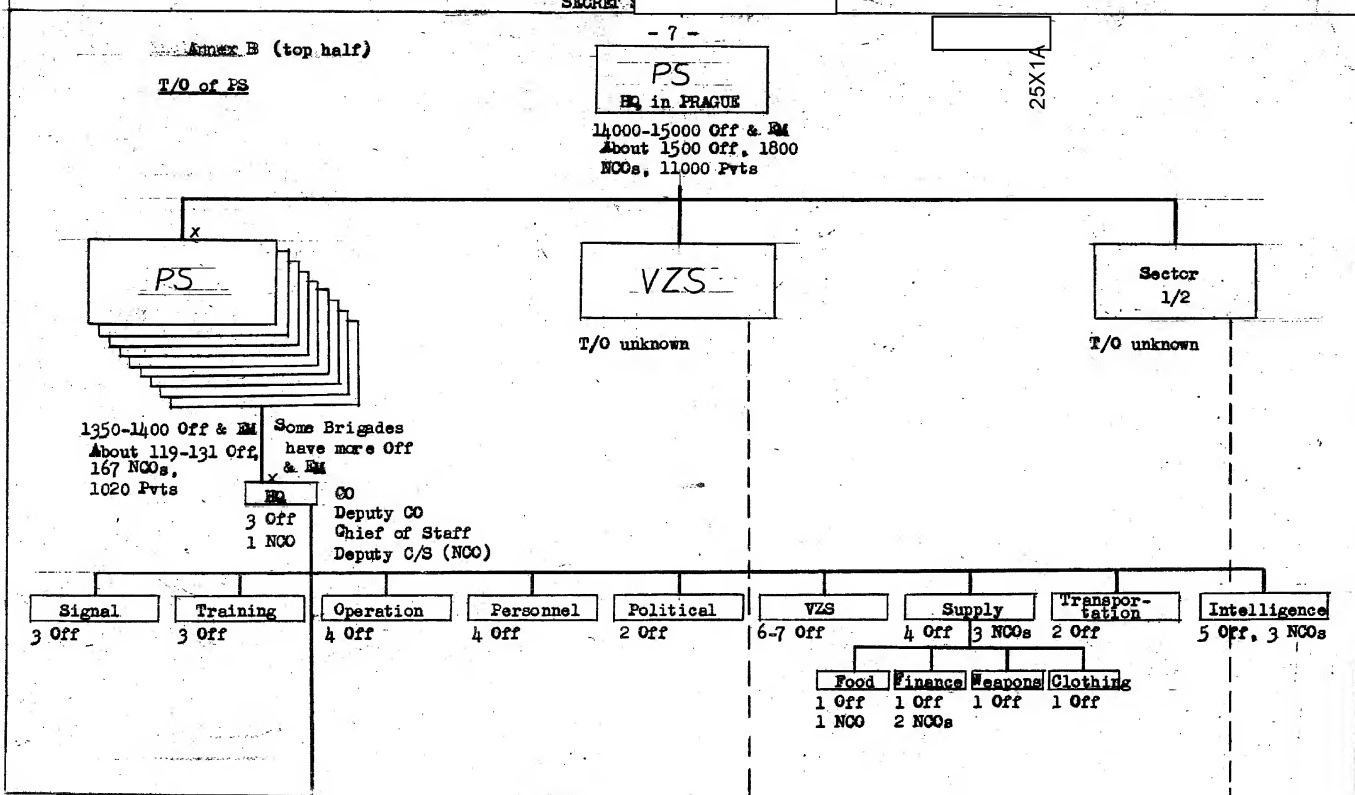
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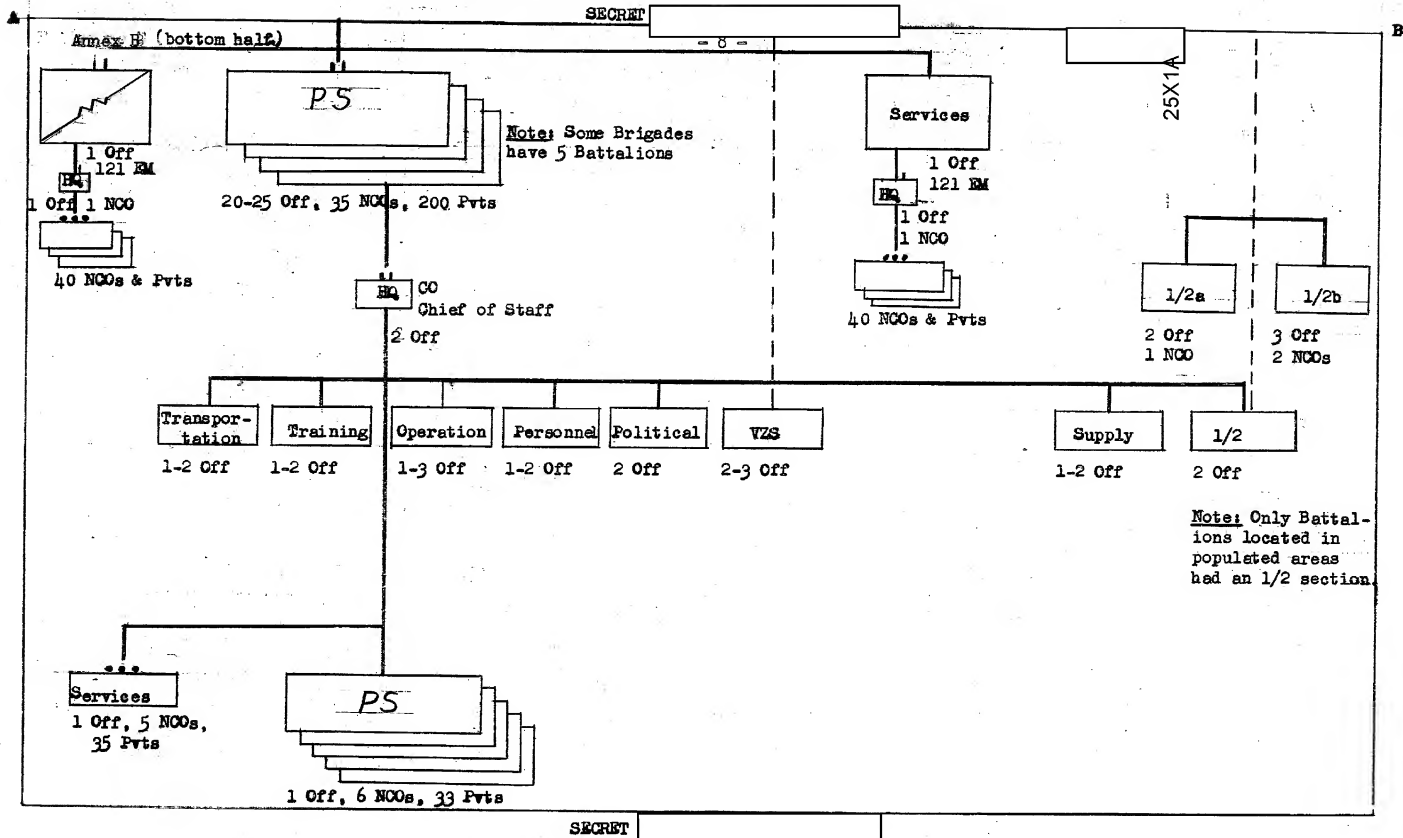


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Annex C

	Pistols	SMG	Rifle	Binoculars	Grenades	Rocket Pistols	Police dogs	Skoda Tudor Jeeps	RMG	Tatra 5-ton trucks	Skoda sedans	Telephones	Transmitters
Border Company	1	1	38	1-2	50	4	2-3	1	5				
Bn Hq	18												
Bn Hq Platoon	1		40										
Five companies as above	5	5	190	7-8	250	20	12	5	about 25	5			
Battalion total	24	5	230	7-8	250	20	12	5	about 25	5			

Annex C (Cont'd)

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A	Brigade Hq	about 45							15-20		10	5	1	2
	Brigade Signal Co	1	1	120										
	Brigade Service Co	1	1	120										
	Four battalions as above	about 100	20	920	30	1000	80	48-50	20	100	20			
	Brigade of four battalions, about	150	25	1160	30	1000	80	48-50	35-40	100	30	5	1	2
	Brigade of five battalions, about	175	30	1390	35	1250	100	60	45	125	35	5	1	2
	Nine Brigades as above, about	1450	350	12000	300	9000-10000	850	500	375	1000	300	45	9	18
	FS Hq, about	200	100	300									1	2
	FS Total, about	1650	450	12300	300	10000	850	500	375	1000	300	45	10	20

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